Chapter 2 of the Brand new series!!
We're going...
...To the promised place.
OUR ADVENTURE'S STARTING NOW!...!!
We're going into space with this orbital elevator!
HM?
IT'S MUCH CLOSER THAN I THOUGHT?

0'02"
The Princess and
the Time Celebrities

Work: Kumeta Kouji

せっかち伯爵と時間どろぼう

le comte impatient et le voleur du temps

AFTER ALL?!
SO IT'S NOT AN ORBITAL ELEVATOR...
THAT'S THE THIRD GROUP OF ADVENTURERS TODAY.
....
THIS IS TOO CONFUSING!
I'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE TOWN.
すっ
すっ
WHY ARE YOU CLIMBING UP?
すたっ

PANORAMIC VIEW OF
KUOOTSU-SHI FURAN-KU MIURA

THIS IS A PRETTY INTEREST-ING ERA

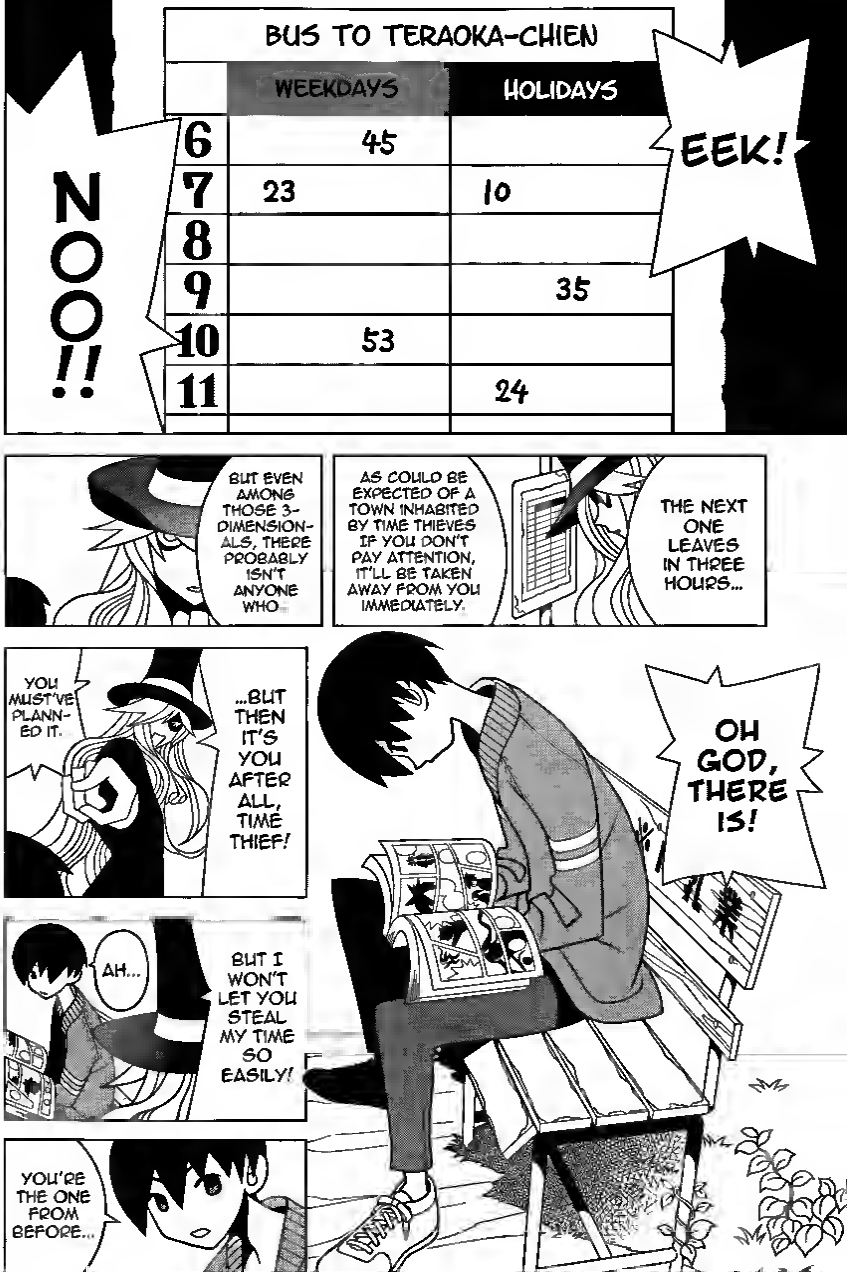
IT JUST WENT OFF THOUGH.
ブロロ
LET'S RIDE BACK WITH THIS 3-DIMENSIONAL MEANS OF TRANSPORTA-TION!
WE NEED TO GET BACK FAST SO WE CAN STOP HER.

WE SHOULD WAIT FOR THE NEXT BUS.

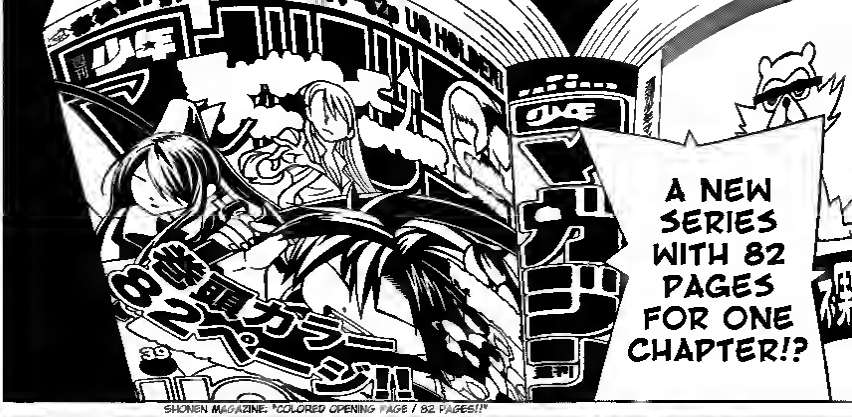
WHAT IS SHE DOING?!
A BALL?

I'VE ALREADY DELIVERED SOME OF THE INVITA-TIONS THOUGH
I WON'T ALLOW IT!!

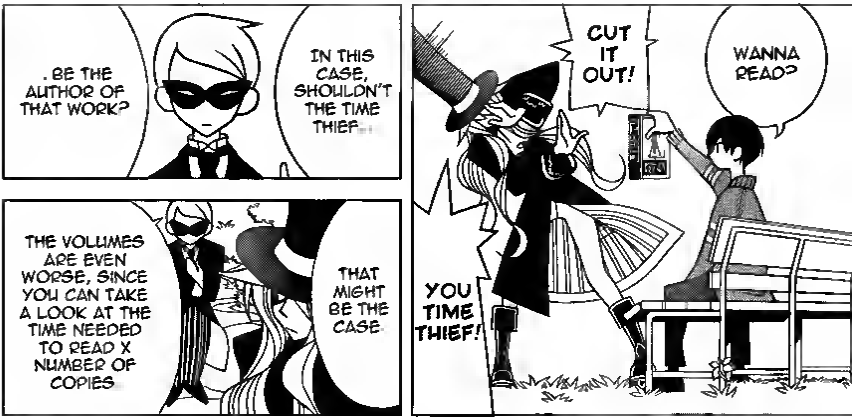
TO FIND PEOPLE'S RESI-DENCES.
WHY DID YOU NEED TO GRASP THE WHOLE SCENERY ANYWAY?
I'M HANDING OUT INVITA-TIONS TO THE BALL YOUR SISTER IS HOLDING


BUS TO TERAOKA-CHIEN
WEEKDAYS
HOLIDAYS
6 45
7 23 10
8
9 35
10 53
11 24
NOO!!
EEK!
BUT EVEN AMONG THOSE 3-DIMENSIONALS, THERE PROBABLY ISN'T ANYONE WHO...
AS COULD BE EXPECTED OF A TOWN INHABITED BY TIME THIEVES IF YOU DON'T PAY ATTENTION, IT'LL BE TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU IMMEDIATELY.
THE NEXT ONE LEAVES IN THREE HOURS...
YOU MUST'VE PLANNED IT.
...BUT THEN IT'S YOU AFTER ALL, TIME THIEF!
OH GOD, THERE IS!
AH...
BUT I WON'T LET YOU STEAL MY TIME SO EASILY!
YOU'RE THE ONE FROM BEFORE...

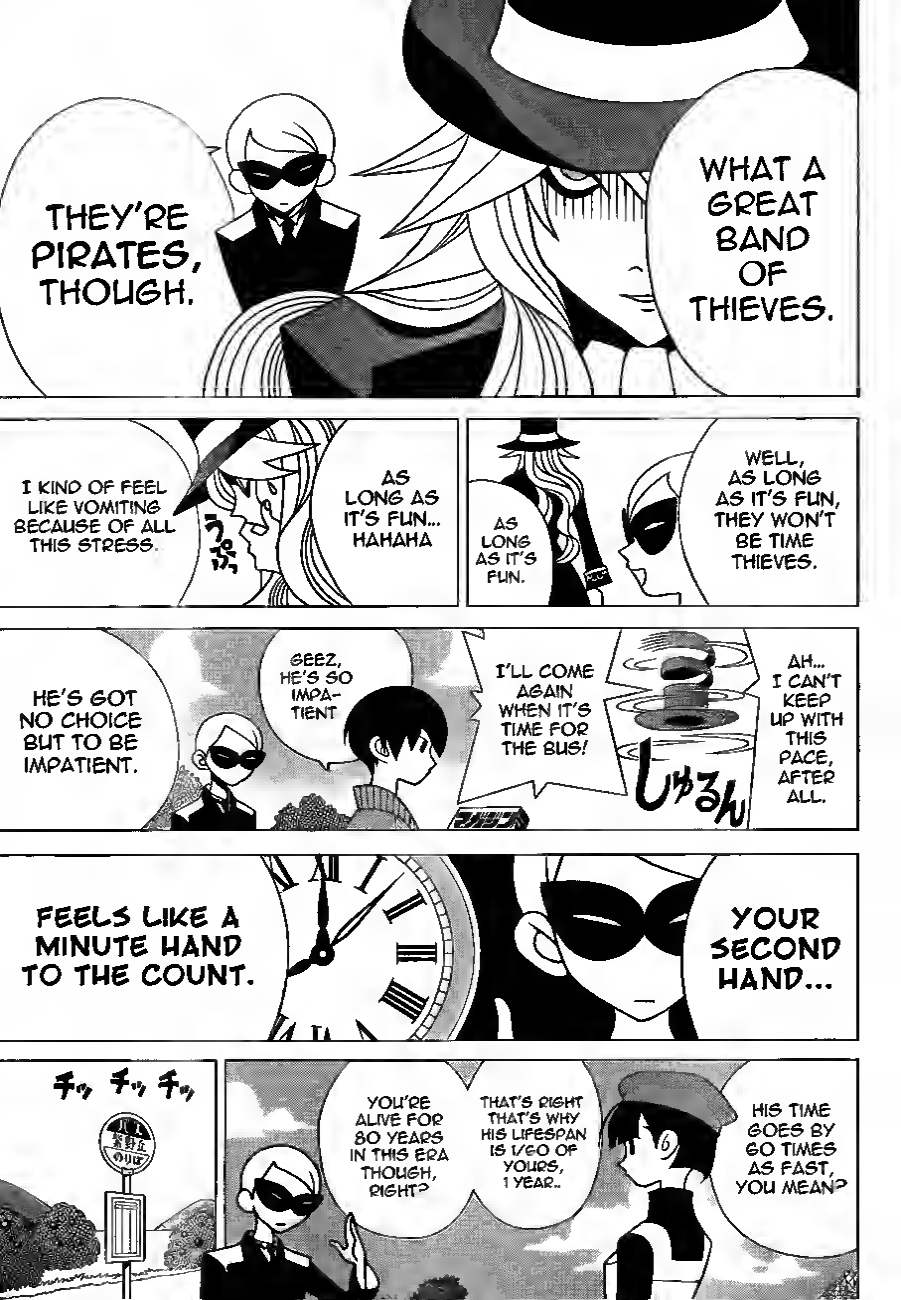
I'M NOT A BAKER!
THE BAKER.
HIS NAME IS COUNT OF SAINT GERMAIN.
YOU DIDN'T LISTEN TO WHAT I TOLD YOU LAST TIME, DID YOU
WHY ARE YOU SO IMPATIENT?
HOWEVER, HE CAN ONLY EXIST IN SEVERAL TIMES, AND HIS FULL LIFESPAN IS ONLY ONE YEAR, MUCH SHORTER THAN OURS.
SINCE HE APPEARED ALL OVER TIME, PEOPLE SAID HE LIVED EXTREMELY LONG OR THAT HE WAS ETERNALLY YOUNG AND IMMORTAL.
WELL, WE CAN JUST READ MANGA OR SOMETHING AND WAIT FOR THE NEXT BUS
I CAME TO VISIT MY GRANDMA.
WAS THAT ABOUT RIGHT?
THIS PLACE IS PRETTY INCONVENIENT IT'S A MINOR ROUTE AND THERE'S NOTHING BUT A HOSPITAL
THANKS FOR THE EXPLANATION.



SHONEN MAGAZINE: "COLORED OPENING PAGE / 82 PAGES!!"


. BE THE AUTHOR OF THAT WORK?
IN THIS CASE, SHOULDN'T THE TIME THIEF...
THE VOLUMES ARE EVEN WORSE, SINCE YOU CAN TAKE A LOOK AT THE TIME NEEDED TO READ X NUMBER OF COPIES
THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE.
CUT IT OUT!
WANNA READ?
YOU TIME THIEF!

THEY SELL 300 MILLION, SO IF WE TAKE 1 COPY AS 30 MINUTES, THEY'RE STEALING 17,000 YEARS.
HOW MANY COPIES DO BEST-SELLING COMIC VOLUMES SELL?


WHAT A GREAT BAND OF THIEVES.
THEY'RE PIRATES, THOUGH.
WELL, AS LONG AS IT'S FUN, THEY WON'T BE TIME THIEVES.
AS LONG AS IT'S FUN.
AS LONG AS IT'S FUN... HAHAHA
I KIND OF FEEL LIKE VOMITING BECAUSE OF ALL THIS STRESS.
うぷっ
AH... I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THIS PACE, AFTER ALL.
しゅるん
I'LL COME AGAIN WHEN IT'S TIME FOR THE BUS!
GEEZ, HE'S SO IMPA-TIENT
HE'S GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO BE IMPATIENT.
YOUR SECOND HAND...
FEELS LIKE A MINUTE HAND TO THE COUNT.
HIS TIME GOES BY 60 TIMES AS FAST, YOU MEAN?
THAT'S RIGHT THAT'S WHY HIS LIFESPAN IS 1/60 OF YOURS, 1 YEAR..
YOU'RE ALIVE FOR 80 YEARS IN THIS ERA THOUGH, RIGHT?
チッ チッ チッ
葉野花のバス停

I'M NOT A 4-DIMENSIONAL BEING LIKE THE COUNT.
MY SENSE OF TIME IS THE SAME AS YOUR PEOPLE'S.
I'M FINE.
BUT YOU DON'T SEEM ANY IMPATIENT.
NO.
SO, YOU'RE HUMAN?
I'M A HOMUNCULUS.
I WAS CREATED WITH ALCHEMY.
カチン
AREN'T HOMONCULI MADE OF "HORSE DUNG" AND...
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW MANY BODIES I'VE ALREADY USED.
I'VE BEEN SERVING THE COUNT HERE AND THERE FOR SEVERAL CENTURIES
REALITY IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT.
IT'S NONSENSE
THAT'S WHAT A LOW-CLASS MAN WHO WANTED TO PLACE HIMSELF HIGHER THAN AN ARTIFICIALLY CREATED HOMUNCULUS SAID.

IN ORDER TO KEEP HOMUNCULI FROM REPRODUC-ING...
...THEY CAN ONLY FALL IN LOVE WITH MEMBERS OF THE SAME SEX.
I'LL TELL YOU SOME-THING GOOD.
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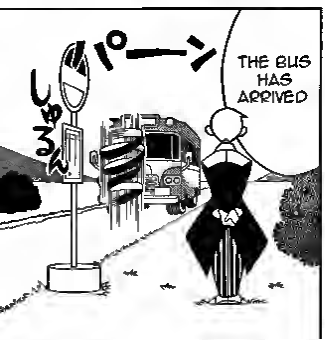
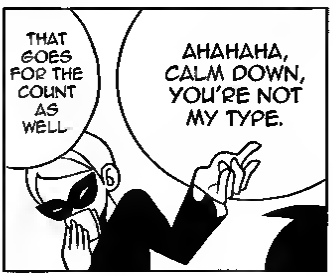
しゅぽん
SFX. PLOP

ぶちゅうううう♥
SFX. SMOOCH


しゅるん
パーン
THE BUS HAS ARRIVED


THAT GOES FOR THE COUNT AS WELL
AHAHAHA, CALM DOWN, YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE.

...BUT THEY'RE NOT GOOD AT MOVING TO PLACES.
AFTER ALL, 4-DIMENSIONALS CAN MOVE IN TIME...
DID YOU THINK I COULD TELEPORT?
...SO YOU DO RIDE THE BUS.
IN FRANCE, IT'S JUST LIKE A GREETING IN FRANCE.
A GREETING
SHOW SOME INTEREST ALREADY!
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HEARING HOW I GOT HERE FROM EUROPE?
NOPE, NOT REALLY.
I GUESS YOU KNOW THAT EARTH ROTATES.
IF YOU'RE THAT RELUCTANT, I'LL JUST TELL YOU
THAT'S THE METHOD I USED. BEFORE I CAME TO THIS TOWN, I WAS IN ANCIENT ROME.
WE CAN MOVE ALONG THE TIME DIFFERENCE ON THE SAME LATITUDE.
BUT IF WE MOVE IN TIME WITHOUT ANCHORING...
USUALLY, WE ANCHOR OURSELVES IN A PLACE AND THEN MOVE IN TIME.
IF WE DO SO, WE APPEAR IN THE SAME PLACE IN A DIFFERENT TIME.

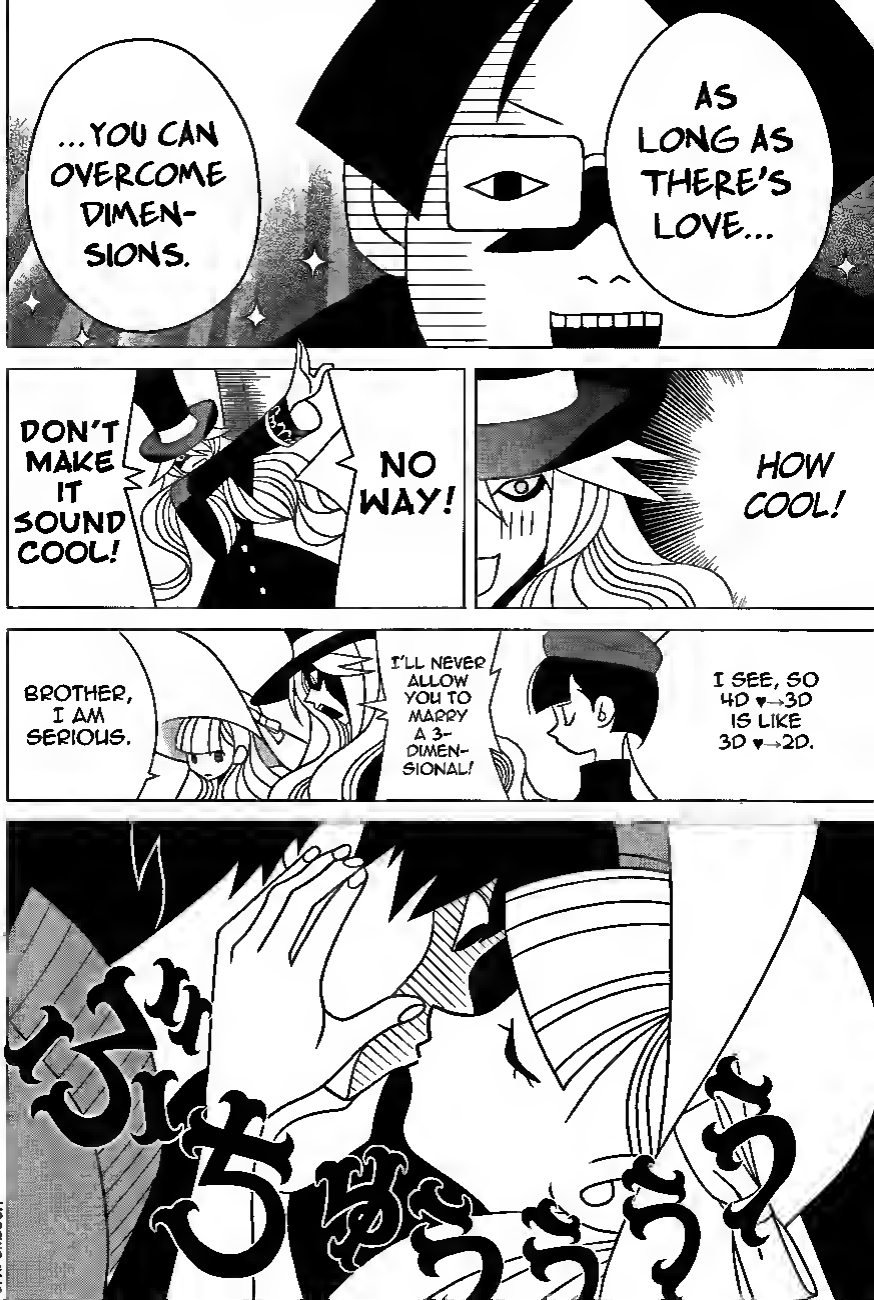
WOW!
AND FROM THERE?
THEN I CAME HERE...
Japan
Aomori
USA
Rome
Rotation
SO I APPEARED IN WHAT'S NOW AOMORI, WHICH IS LOCATED ON THE SAME LATITUDE.
I MOVED ALONG THE TIME DIFFERENCE OF EIGHT HOURS TO THE SAME SPACE.
パーン
FROM AOMORI BY SHINK-ANSEN.
ISN'T THAT THE WRONG ROUTE?
HUH?
I HAD A SEAT IN GRAN CLASS!
THAT LAST PART IS KINDA LAME.
IT'S ALREADY STARTED.
WEL-COME, EVERY-BODY.
WE'RE GOING TO THE RESI-DENCE.
HUH, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

I GATHERED SEVERAL TIME CELEBRITIES TO HOLD THIS BALL WE ARE HAVING HERE.
TIME CELEBRI-TIES...?
THEY ARE PEOPLE SPENDING THEIR TIME IN RICH AND LUXURIOUS WAYS.
HE HAS A BELOVED PERSON THAT HE CAN NEVER REACH.
THAT PERSON IS EVEN DANCING WITH A LIGHT POLE.
JUDGED BY THEIR LOOKS, THEY DON'T SEEM LIKE CELEBRI-TIES AT ALL THOUGH
STEPS? BUT HE'S ALMOST NOT MOVING AT ALL.
OH MY! A TIME CELEBRITY MAKING BEAUTIFUL STEPS.
ISN'T THAT A STALK-ER?!
BUT HE'S A TIME CELEB-RITY WHO CAN FOLLOW HER CALMLY FOR TEN OR MORE HOURS
WOULDN'T YOU CALL THAT SLOW-DOWN TACTICS?!
HE'S A DIET MEMBER WHO NEEDS SEVERAL HOURS TO GET TO THE BALLOT BOX IN ORDER TO CAST A BLANK VOTE

HERE IS THE LIST OF ALL THE PEOPLE I INVITED TODAY.
... SO THEY PUSH ALL THE BUTTONS ON THE ELEVATOR.
A TIME CELEBRITY AFRAID OF ENDINGS...
...FOR A GAMBLE THEY CAN'T WIN.
A TIME CELEBRITY LINING UP EARLY IN THE MORNING...
- A SALARYMAN TAKING 2 1/2 HOURS TO COMMUTE TO WORK
- PEOPLE TAKING PART IN A CONFERENCE TO DECIDE WHAT'S GOING TO BE THE TOPIC OF THE NEXT CONFERENCE
- A CHAIRMAN HOLDING A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR 1 HOUR AND 10 MINUTES
- THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL TALKING ABOUT THREE "TREES" EVEN THOUGH NOBODY IS LISTENING
- YOUR BOSS TALKING ABOUT THREE "BAGS" AT YOUR WEDDING EVEN THOUGH NOBODY ASKED FOR ANYTHING
- PEOPLE LINING UP OVERNIGHT AT A STORE FOR MALUS DOMESTICA.
- A RUNNER RUNNING FOR 24 HOURS AND PEOPLE FOLLOWING THEM TO SEE IF THEY REALLY ARE RUNNING
- A RAPPER YELLING "SAY HO!" SEVERAL TIMES RANDOMLY BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF EVERY PIECE
- A MUSICIAN REPEATING "YOUSOROU!"
- A TV HOST SHOWING A BOXING FIGHT THAT STARTS AT 19FPM FROM 19FM.
- FRENCH PEOPLE INCLUDING IRONY EVERYWHERE IN DAILY CONVERSATIONS
- AMERICANS ASKING "DO YOU WANT TO HEAR THE GOOD OR THE BAD NEWS FIRST?"
EACH OF THEM IS A WONDERFUL TIME CELEBRITY.
OOH!
...IS TOKITADA SUGURU-SAMA HERE.
AND OUR GUEST OF HONOR TODAY ...
BUT SUGURU-SAMA HERE...
EACH OF YOU HAS THEIR OWN GOAL...
...AND IS USING THEIR TIME RICHLY TO REACH IT

...WITHOUT ANY GOAL AT ALL!!
おっお
...USES HIS TIME...
おおおoooh!
SUGURU-SAMA, COME HERE.
しゅるっ
SHE'S NOT PRAISING YOU!
THAT FLATTERS ME.
AND NOW I SHALL USE THIS PLACE TO
いぐっ
ANNOUNCE THE WEDDING OF ME AND SUGURU-SAMA.
HERE, YOU GET THE FIRST BITE. INSTEAD OF A CAKE, I BAKED.
I... I WON'T ALLOW THIS!

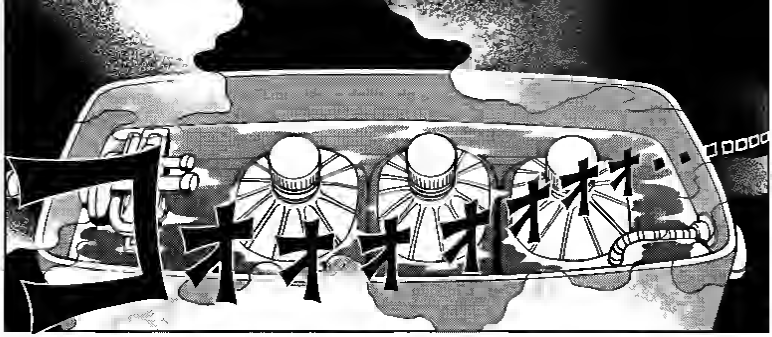
...AN APPLE PIE. PLEASE EAT IT.
ぐりぐり
ぐりぐり
ARE YOU AWARE WHAT IT MEANS...
FOR US 4-DIMENSIONALS TO MARRY ONE OF THOSE 3-DIMENSIONALS?
SO WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF YOU 3-DIMEN-SIONALS...
....IT'S LIKE THAT!
WHAT AN OLD-FASHIONED WAY OF THINKING.
くるっ
MY WAIFU'S BEEN 2D FOR TEN YEARS ALREADY.
くるん


AS LONG AS THERE'S LOVE...
...YOU CAN OVERCOME DIMEN-SIONS.
HOW COOL!
NO WAY!
DON'T MAKE IT SOUND COOL!
I SEE, SO 4D ♥→3D IS LIKE 3D ♥→2D.
I'LL NEVER ALLOW YOU TO MARRY A 3-DIMEN-SIONAL!
BROTHER, I AM SERIOUS.
SFX: SMOOCH

じゅるるるるるる
SFX: SMOOCHING INTENSIFIES
ちゅうううう
SFX: SMOOOCH
しゅぽんっ
SFX: POP
ずべべべべ
SFX: PLUMPING
しゅうううう
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
A greeting!
It's just a greeting in France!
IT'S NOT THAT ROMANTIC.
IS THIS LIKE MAGIC DISPELLED WITH A KISS?
THE APPLE PIE...
!!
THAT MEANS DESCENSION FOR HER.
IN OTHER WORDS, SHE ATE THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT.
SHE PROBABLY SUCKED UP PIECES REMAINING FROM THE APPLE PIE SUGURU-SAMA ATE.

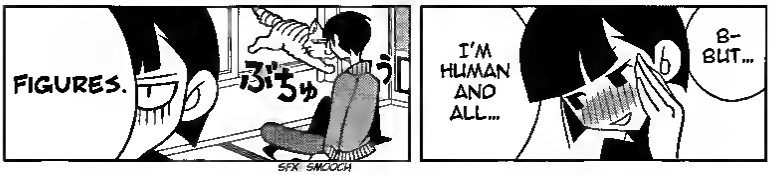
I'VE BECOME UNABLE TO MOVE IN TIME.
WITH THIS...
I'VE MADE THIS ERA...
...THE LAST FOR ME.
THE LAST ERA?
JUST AS THE LIFE OF YOUR WARRIOR ANCESTORS WAS A JOURNEY TO FIND A PLACE TO DIE
OUR LIFE IS A JOURNEY TO FIND AN ERA TO DIE.
BUT HER DECISION IS MUCH TOO EARLY.
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE DESCENSION?
DESCENSION?
IT'S THE OPPOSITE OF ASCENSION, IT MEANS TO LOSE A DIMENSION.
SHE WENT FROM THE 4TH DIMENSION TO THE 3RD, SO SHE LOST THE ABILITY TO MOVE IN TIME.
THEN ...

SHE'S GOING TO DIE...
IN ONE YEAR...?
BY THE HEAVENS...
WHAT ARE YOU SO SAD ABOUT?
MY LIFE SPAN DID NOT CHANGE AT ALL.
ヒョオオオ
THERE IS NO LIFE THAT CAN BE FULFILLED...
... WITHOUT MOVING THROUGH THE TIMES.
ざっ
TO MAKE MY SISTER'S LIFE...
...A FULFILLED ONE EVEN UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES...
I shall ERASE all those...
...who waste time in this town.
ギィィィ



SO BY DOING THIS, YOU WON'T BE WASTING WATER ANYMORE, YOU SAY?
NOW I SEE!
THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS SEEMS LIKE A HOUSE WIFE CUTTING DOWN ON THINGS NOW.

BUT HAVING A DEEP KISS WITH TWO NON-HUMAN BEINGS ON THE SAME DAY
WHAT A RARE PER-SON HE IS
YOU WERE THE FIRST TO KISS HIM THOUGH!



For his little sister who descended, will the cost-cutting gentleman get rid of all waste in life...?